

# OUTGOING MESSAGE

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Approved For Release 2004/11/30 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100070010-0

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740703

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DATE-TIME GROUP

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MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

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SOURCE REF:

ROUTING	1		4		7		10	
	2		5		8		11	
	3		6		9		12	

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ITEM NO: 3

DATE: 3 JULY 1974

SUBJECT: REGIME SHAKEUP IN BULGARIA

A POWER STRUGGLE IN BULGARIA HAS BROUGHT DOWN FOUR TOP PARTY LEADERS AND SEVERAL MINOR OFFICIALS. CHANGES MADE AT A PARTY PLENUM TODAY SEEM TO FORESHADOW A TIGHTENING OF INTERNAL CONTROLS AND A TOUGHER STANCE TOWARD DETENTE.

IVAN ABADZHIEV, A CANDIDATE MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO AND PARTY SECRETARY FOR PROPAGANDA AND AGITATION, WAS THE HIGHEST RANKING OFFICIAL TO FALL. HE HAD BEEN CONSIDERED ONE OF THE THREE TOP-RANKING LEADERS AND A POSSIBLE HEIR TO PARTY AND GOVERNMENT CHIEF TODOR ZHIVKOV.

THE DEFENSE MINISTER, GENERAL DOBRI DZHUROV, WAS PROMOTED TO

DATE:

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UNIT:

EXT:

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ROUTING	1	4	7	10
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CANDIDATE MEMBERSHIP ON THE POLITBURO. THE MILITARY HAS LONG BEEN THE CENTER OF CONSERVATIVE POLITICS IN BULGARIA AND HAS BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF THOSE WARNING ABOUT THE DANGERS OF DETENTE. DZHUROV'S PROMOTION MAY ALSO SPELL A DOWNTURN IN YUGOSLAV-BULGARIAN RELATIONS. THE MILITARY IS A STRONGHOLD OF BULGARIAN NATIONALISM AND IS OPPOSED TO THE CONCESSIONS SOFIA HAS MADE TO YUGOSLAVIA ON THE TOUCHY MACEDONIAN PROBLEM.

WHILE THE POLITICAL BALANCE THUS SEEMS TO HAVE SHIFTED TOWARD THE HARD LINERS, THE CHANGES EVIDENTLY DO NOT AFFECT THE STATUS OF ZHIVKOV. [REDACTED]

(SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: E EUR DIV AND NIO [REDACTED])

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